



Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

News Release

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Supervisor Don Stapley, District 2, Elected 2006 Chairman of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, Presents "State of the County" Address

Don Stapley, Dist 2
Chairman
Fulton Brock, Dist 1
Andy Kunasek, Dist 3
Max Wilson, Dist 4
Mary Rose Wilcox, Dist 5

PHOTO AVAILABLE

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors unanimously elected their colleague, Don Stapley, District 2, to serve as Chairman for 2006. The Chairmanship is a rotating, one-year position. After a brief ceremony where out-going 2005 Chairman Max Wilson, District 4, passed the gavel, Don Stapley presented a "State-of-the-County" address.

Stapley represents District 2, which includes Cave Creek, Carefree, Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Leisure World, Mesa, Paradise Valley, Salt River Pima Reservation, Scottsdale (E. of Scottsdale Rd.) and North Scottsdale.

From a pioneer Arizona family (Stapley Drive is named for his family), Stapley carries on a family tradition of public service. He graduated from Westwood High School in Mesa and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. Currently, he is in his fourth, four-year term on the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. He served as Chairman in 1997 and 2001, so this will be his third term as Chairman. He was named County Leader of the Year in 2004 by the American City & County Magazine for his leadership locally and nationally. He is a former president of the County Supervisors Association of Arizona and he has served on the Maricopa Association of Governments Transportation and Policy Committee. This past summer, he was elected Second Vice President for the National Association of Counties, which places him in line for the national presidency in 2008.

In addition to his activities as a public servant, Stapley has contributed to his community as a volunteer for decades. Boy Scouts, YMCA and Little League are among his myriad involvements. He is active in his church and the youth activities his church sponsors. He and his wife, Kathy, have four children and three grandchildren.

For more information about Supervisor Stapley: <http://www.maricopa.gov/dist2/>

In his "State of the County" address, Chairman Stapley focused on three key areas for the coming year: Public Health, Public Safety and Fiscal Responsibility

Public Health -- Air Quality

A new department was created over a year ago, the Maricopa County Air Quality Department, to address the high pollution issue. The number of inspectors has increased and legal regulations are being enforced. Also, public education is being implemented. In addition, the county will do its part by encouraging flex schedules and telecommuting

Public Safety -- streamline criminal justice system

One of the major goals in the coming year is to evaluate and fund streamlined justice system programs which reduce our jail population and delay the need to build additional detention facilities, thereby saving hundreds of millions of dollars. In addition, the mentally ill, the homeless and the drug addicted can receive assistance.

- The Human Services Campus for the homeless opened a few months ago and serves as a national model.
- The Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) Commission was established this past year and is working toward diverting the mentally ill from jails and into treatment programs.
- The issue of rampant methamphetamine use requires education to increase awareness and prevent the spread of this drug abuse.
- Mental Health Court, Alpha drug treatment program and Teen Court are three programs that are successful in terms of results and efficient criminal justice funding.

Fiscal Responsibility -- self-imposed tax rate limit

Property values have increased phenomenally in the last year and people are worried the big increase in their property values will result in a big property tax increase. The Board of Supervisors is also the Board of Directors for the Library and Flood Control Districts, and they set those Districts' tax rates. After the state of the county address, the board voted unanimously to set a self-imposed limit on Library and Flood Control property taxes that will reduce these Districts' tax rates to offset the big increases in assessed values.

